REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated April 15, 2008. Claims 13-15 are pending. Claims 1-12 and 16-23, which have been withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention, have been canceled herein.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the brief teleconference of August 6, 2008 discussing possible amendments to the claims to address the sole remaining objections, *i.e.*, claim definiteness and enablement (stemming from the indefiniteness rejection).

As discussed, Claim 13 has been amended herein to specify that the compounds of the present invention inhibit mycobacterial serine/threonine protein kinase G (PknG). Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, *see*, *e.g.*, page 5, lines 11-15.

Claims 14 and 15 ultimately depend from Claim 13.

It is believed the amendments made herein address and obviate all remaining issues in this case. However, in order to be completely responsive to the Office Action, Applicants address the issues presented below.

Since the amendments are in response to the Examiner's request for clarification, Applicants believe the amendments fall within the definition of amendments "complying with any requirements of form expressly set forth in a previous Office action" as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Alternatively, since the amendments more clearly and particularly point out that which Applicant regards as his invention, Applicant requests entry of the amendments as "presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal", also as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Entry of the amendments and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Response to issues presented under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 13-15 as indefinite, stating that the claims fail to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner notes:

> "It is unclear if the claim is drawn to a compound which is an inhibitor of protein kinase G, or a compound which is a 'protein kinase inhibitor G". If the latter, then examiner requires further explanation on what is a "protein kinase inhibitor G." (Office Action dated April 15, 2008, page 3.)

Applicants have amended Claim 13 herein to correctly state: "A mycobacterial serine/threonine protein kinase G (PknG) inhibitor compound having the general formula (I):..." Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are clear and definite. Removal of the rejection of Claims 13-15 as indefinite is believed to be in order.

If the Examiner feels alternative wording would be preferable, he is invited to contact the Applicants' representatives to discuss and secure alternative wording to specify the compounds are inhibitors of mycobacterial serine/threonine protein kinase G (PknG).

Response to issues presented under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintains the rejection of Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not being enabled by the specification in such a way to allow a person skilled in the art to make and use the invention as claimed. Specifically, the Examiner previously contended:

> "The specification, while being sufficiently enabling for inhibitors of *M. tuberculosis*, *M. smegmatis*, and *M. bovis* serine/threonine kinases, does not reasonably provide enablement for the extremely broad scope of inhibitors of any/all serine/threonine kinases or any/all other species of mycobacteria." (Office Action, page 4)

In their previous response, *inter alia*, the Applicants had amended the claims to specify that the compounds were inhibitors of mycobacterial serine/threonine protein kinase G (PknG).

However, the Examiner maintained the rejection because of the possible alternative reading of the claims leading to the indefinite rejection. As discussed *infra*, Applicant has amended the claims to properly state: "A mycobacterial serine/threonine protein kinase G (PknG) inhibitor compound having the general formula (I):..."

Applicants submit that the claims are fully enabled by the teachings of the application. Applicants have identified therapeutic targets for treating mycobacterial infection, *e.g.*, mycobacterium serine/threonine protein kinase G (PknG), validated the target as an effective therapeutic target, *see*, *e.g.*, Example 2, entitled "Validation of Mycobacterial Kinase as a Mycobacterial Virulence Gene", and Figures 1-2, screened for inhibitors of the activity of the target kinase, *see*, Example 3, and then tested the ability of the claimed compositions to reduce the persistence and enhanced survival of pathogenic mycobacteria, *see*, Example 4 and Figure 2.

Furthermore, the specification provides ample teaching to those skilled in the art as methods of preparing a pharmaceutical composition of the claimed PknG inhibitors. For example, *see* pages 43-47.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing remarks and amendments herein, Applicants submit that Claims 13-15 are definite and enabled and fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 13-15 are requested.

Rejoinder

As noted by the Examiner in the Office Action dated April 30, 2007, upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to a reasonable number additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim. 37 C.F.R. §1.141. Applicants submit that Claim 13 is generic to a number of species. Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss related species and enter final amendments to the claims via an Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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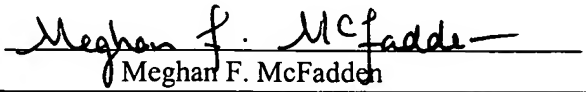

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